

Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences Division

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved on behalf of Education Committee on 16 September 2024.

Title of Programme

Master of Philosophy in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation (EBSIPE)

Brief note about nature of change:

Major changes to assessment and reassessment

Effective date

For students starting from Michaelmas term 2024

For first examination from 2024/25

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2024-25, Master of Philosophy in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation (EBSIPE) (ox.ac.uk)*

Details of Change:

Amend citations and re-number as follows:

1. The programme shall be under the supervision of the Graduate Studies Committee of the Department of Social Policy and Intervention.

1.1 **42.** Candidates must follow for at least six terms a course of instruction in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation.

1.2 **23.** *Qualifying Test*

Every candidate will be assessed by:

(i) A compulsory paper, in either Evidence-Based Social Intervention or Policy Evaluation, examined by an unseen written examination.

(ii) A compulsory Research Methods paper assessed by three assignments (consisting of one research methods essay (up to 2,500 words), one statistics

assignment (up to 3,000 words), and a qualitative critical appraisal (up to 2,500 words)).

(iii) One option paper assessed by a 4,000 word coursework assignment to be submitted by no later than noon on Tuesday of week 0 of Trinity term. The list of options will be published annually by Friday of week 6 of Michaelmas term. In exceptional circumstances and with the permission of the Course Director, the option paper may be from subjects outside this list.

All assessments must be submitted using the University approved online submission system. Technical information on the requirements for online submissions is provided in the Course Handbook.

The examiners may examine any candidate viva voce.

Candidates who fail the qualifying test will be allowed to retake the test once before the beginning of week 1 of the second year of the programme.

~~1.3 Every candidate must pass a qualifying test at the end of Trinity Full Term in the two compulsory papers, either Evidence-Based Social Intervention or Policy Evaluation, and Evaluation Methods and one Optional Paper from the list of optional papers published annually by Friday of the sixth week of Michaelmas Full Term in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention. The examiners may examine candidates viva voce if required. Candidates who fail the qualifying test will be allowed to retake the test once before the beginning of the first week of the next academic year. The Social Policy and Intervention Graduate Studies Committee can decide that the retake shall consist of the whole test or parts thereof.~~

1.4 ~~34.~~ Final Examination

1.5 Every candidate will be assessed by ~~must offer~~:

(i) One further option paper assessed by a 4,000 word coursework assignment to be submitted by no later than noon on Tuesday of week 0 of Trinity term of the second year of the programme. The list of options will be published annually by Friday of week 6 of Michaelmas term. In exceptional circumstances and with the permission of the Course Director, the option paper may be from subjects outside this list.

(ii) One research thesis on a topic related to, and attentive to evidence-based intervention, policy evaluation or evaluation methods. The subject of the thesis must be approved by the supervisor on behalf of the Department and should not exceed 30,000 words in length. The thesis must be submitted by no later than noon on Thursday of week 6 of Trinity Term in the second year of the programme.

All assessments must be submitted using the University approved online submission system. Technical information on the requirements for online submissions is provided in the Course Handbook.

~~1.6 i. One further optional paper, also examined by an unseen written exam. This will be from a list published annually by Friday of the sixth week of Michaelmas Full Term in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention. Candidates are expected to take options offered through the EBSIPE course. Only in exceptional circumstances and with the special permission of the Course Director, the optional paper may be from subjects outside this list.~~

~~1.7 ii. One research thesis[†] on a topic related to and attentive to the evidence-based social intervention, policy evaluation or evaluation methods. The subject of the thesis must be approved by the supervisor on behalf of the Department and it should not exceed 30,000 words in length. The thesis must be submitted using the University approved online assessment platform by noon of Friday of the sixth week of Trinity Full Term in which the examination is to be taken. The thesis must be anonymous, and submitted in Word format. Successful candidates may be required to deposit a hard copy of their thesis in the Social Sciences Library.~~

1.8 The examiners may examine any candidate viva voce.

Compulsory Papers

~~Evidence-Based Social Intervention or Policy Evaluation. As specified for the M.Sc. in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation.~~

~~Evaluation Methods. As specified for the M.Sc. in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation.~~

Optional Papers

~~The list of options will be published annually by Friday of the sixth week of Michaelmas Full Term in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention. In exceptional circumstances and with the special permission of the Course Director, the optional paper may be from subjects outside of this list.~~

~~[†]See the general regulations concerning the preparation and dispatch of theses.~~

Explanatory Notes

The changes comprise:

Changing the option paper assessment from 3hr unseen exam to 4000 word coursework essay

Moving TT exams earlier in term

Moving the deadline for the 3rd Research Methods (RM3) assessment from TT 0th week to HT 9th week

Standardisation of re-assessment arrangements for MSc and MPhil students

Changing terminology from 'evaluation methods' to 'research methods'